CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for implementing device regionalization, comprising:

identifying a region code;

establishing a region for a device relative to the identified region code; and

presenting information to a device user about components that can be used with the device relative to the established region.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a region code comprises reading a region code embedded into a device component.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a region code comprises reading a region code embedded into a print cartridge that is installed within the device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a region comprises storing the identified region code in device memory.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein establishing a region further comprises locking the region code for the device.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein locking the region code comprises determining the number of pages that have been printed by the device and locking the region code if the number of pages reaches a predetermined threshold.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein presenting information comprises providing the region code to a user computer.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein presenting information further comprises accessing a database that cross-references the region code with components available for the device so as to limit presentation to information concerning components intended for use in the established region.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the region code comprises providing the region code to a device driver that executes on the user computer and wherein accessing a database comprises accessing the database with the device driver.

10. A system for implementing device regionalization, comprising:

means for reading a region code embedded within a device component;

means for providing the region code to a user computer; and

means for presenting component information to a device user on the user computer that identifies components that are available for the device in a region indicated by the region code.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for reading a region code comprise means for reading a region code from a device component when the component is installed in the device.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for providing the region code comprise means for providing the region code to a device driver that executes on the user computer.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for presenting component information comprise means for accessing a database that cross-references the region code with components available for the device so as to limit presentation of information to information concerning components intended for use in the established region.

14. The system of claim 10, further comprising means for locking a region code for the device.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the means for locking the region code comprise means for determining the number of pages that have been printed and comparing that number with a predetermined threshold.

16. A system stored on a computer readable medium, comprising:

logic for reading a region code from a device component installed in a device;

logic configured to store the read region code;

logic configured to provide the stored region code to a device driver that executes on a user computer; and

logic configured to determine components that are available for use with the device in relation to the region code.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the logic configured to store is further configured to lock the region code on the device.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the logic configured to store is configured to lock the region code after a predetermined number of pages have been printed by the device.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein logic configured to provide the region code is configured to provide the region code to the device driver when the device driver communicates with the device to send the device a print job.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein the logic configured to determine components is configured to identify the components from a database using the region code and a device model.

21. A region identification system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system comprising:

logic configured to read a region code from an encoded component installed within a device;

logic configured to store the read region code; and

logic configured to provide the stored region code to a device driver that executes on a user computer.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising logic configured to lock the region code for the device after a predetermined criterion is satisfied.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the logic configured to lock the region code is configured to lock the region code after a predetermined number of pages have been printed by the device.

24. A device, comprising:

a processing device; and

memory including a region identification system that is configured to read a region code from an encoded component installed within a device, store the read region code, and provide the stored region code to a device driver that executes on a user computer.

25. The device of claim 24, wherein the region identification system is further configured to lock the region code for the device after a predetermined criterion is satisfied.

26. The device of claim 25, wherein the region identification system is configured to lock the region code after a predetermined number of pages have been printed by the device.

27. A device driver stored on a computer-readable medium, the driver comprising:

a component identification module that is configured to receive a region code from a device that is controlled by the device driver, access a database using the region code and a device model to determine the components that are available for the device in a region represented by the region code, and identify the determined components to a device user.

28. The device driver of claim 27, wherein the component identification module is configured to identify a part or order number to the device user.